

CLAIMS

1. In a method of video conferencing between first and second conference locations, said first conference location having a first video conferee, a first video camera and a first image monitor and said second conference location having a second video conferee, a second video camera and a second image monitor wherein said first video monitor displays an image of said second video conferee and said second video monitor displays an image of said first video conferee and, wherein said first and second video conferees face said first and second video cameras and first and second video monitors, respectively, the improvement comprising locating said first and second video cameras proximate said first and second image monitors, respectively, such that said first video camera is placed at an emotionally neutral field of the image of said second video conferee and said second video camera is placed at an emotionally neutral field of the image of said first video conferee.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said emotionally neutral field comprises an area as being above the eyes and below hair line and horizontally between the outer extremities of the eyes defining the forehead region of a video conferee.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein each of said first and second video cameras are located above the eyes of each of said first and second video conferees such that the optical axis of said first video camera is aimed downwardly towards the eyes of the first video conferee and the optical axis of said second video camera is aimed downwardly towards the eyes of the second video conferee.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein said first and second video cameras are aimed at said first and second video conferees, respectively, creating an angle between the optical axis of each of said video cameras and sight line established between the eyes of the video conferees, said angle, θ , defined by the equation:

$$\theta = (\tan^{-1} (H/D))$$

wherein = H = camera height above the eye-to-eye sight line

D = horizontal distance of each camera to its conferee

and wherein θ is ≤ 3 degrees

5

5. The method of claim 4 wherein said video conferees are located between approximately 2 to 8 feet from each of conferee's video cameras.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein the video images of each first and second conferees as appearing upon said second and first video monitors at second and first conference locations, respectively, are approximately the size of said conferees.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein each of said first and second video cameras are characterized as having a length along its optical axis and a lens diameter perpendicular thereto.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein each of said first and second video cameras is characterized as having a lens diameter no greater than approximately 0.47 inches.

9. The method of claim 7 wherein each of said first and second video cameras is characterized as having a lens diameter no greater than approximately 0.28 inches.

10. The method of claim 2 wherein said first and second video and cameras are adjustably positionable upon said first and second video monitors such that said first video camera is adjustably maintained within said emotionally neutral field of the image of said second conferee appearing upon said first video monitor and is further adjustable to maintain its optical axis aimed at the eyes of said first video conferee and said second video camera is adjustably maintained within said emotionally neutral field of the image

of said first conferee appearing upon said second video monitor and is further adjustable to maintain its optical axis aimed at the eyes of said second video conferee.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said first and second video cameras are
5 remotely adjustable at a distance from each camera location.

12. In a device for video conferencing between first and second conference
locations, said first conference location having a first video conferee, a first video camera
and a first image monitor and said second conference location having a second video
10 conferee, a second video camera and a second image monitor wherein said first video
monitor displays an image of said second video conferee and said second video monitor
displays an image of said first video conferee and wherein said first and second video
conferrees face said first and second video cameras and first and second video monitors,
respectively, the improvement comprising the positioning of said first and second video
15 cameras upon said first and second monitors, respectively, such that said first video
camera is placed upon an emotionally neutral field of the image of said second video
conferee and said second video camera is placed upon an emotionally neutral field of the
image of said first video conferee.

13. The device of claim 12 wherein said emotionally neutral field comprises
20 an area as being above the eyes and below hairline and horizontally between the outer
extremities of the eyes defining the forehead region of each conferee.

14. The device of claim 12 wherein each of said first and second video
25 cameras are located above the eyes of each of said first and second video conferrees such
that the optical axis of said first video camera is aimed downwardly towards the eyes of
the first video conferee and the optical axis of said second video camera is aimed
downwardly towards the eyes of the second video conferee.

15. The device of claim 14 wherein said first and second video cameras are aimed at said first and second video conferees, respectively, creating an angle between the optical axis of each of said video cameras and sight line established between the eyes of the video conferees, said angle, θ , defined by the equation:

5

$$\theta = (\tan^{-1} (H/D))$$

wherein = H = camera height above the eye-to-eye sight line between conferees

D = horizontal distance of each camera to its conferee

10

and wherein $\theta \leq 3$ degrees.

16. The device of claim 15 wherein said video conferees are located between approximately 2 to 8 feet from each of conferees video cameras.

15

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the video images of each first and second conferees is appearing upon the video monitors at said second and first conference locations, respectively, are approximately the size of said conferees.

20

18. The device of claim 15 wherein each of said first and second video cameras are characterized as having a length along its optical axis and a lens diameter perpendicular thereto.

25

19. The device of claim 18 wherein each of said first and second video cameras is characterized as having a lens diameter no greater than approximately 0.47 inches.

30

20. The device of claim 18 wherein each of said first and second video cameras is characterized as having a lens diameter no greater than approximately 0.28 inches.

21. The device of claim 13 wherein said first and second video cameras are adjustably positionable upon said first and second video monitors such that said first video camera is adjustably maintained within said emotionally neutral field of the image of said second conferee appearing upon said first monitor and is further adjustable to
5 maintain its optical axis at the eyes of said first video conferee and said second video camera is adjustably maintained within said emotionally neutral field of the image of said first conferee appearing upon said second video monitor and is further adjustable to maintain its optical axis aimed at the eyes of said second video conferee.

10 22. The method of claim 21 wherein said video camera is remotely adjustable at a distance from said camera location.